



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
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**GOVERNOR BARBOUR URGES HOUSE TO TAKE LOOK
AT BILL TO PUT MORE TROOPERS ON HIGHWAYS**

Jackson, Mississippi – Governor Haley Barbour has urged House members to consider a measure that would boost the number of troopers patrolling state roads and streamline the enforcement of traffic and federal transportation laws. A similar effort died in the Senate today.

“I urge members of the House to take a look at this because, without it, we are failing to put 40 more troopers on the highways to enforce traffic laws,” Governor Barbour said. The proposal would shift law enforcement housed in the Mississippi Department of Transportation to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

Governor Barbour said state troopers and MDOT law enforcement officers share similar duties, a duplication of services in a time of budget stress. He said combining these officers under one roof will improve operating efficiencies, get more patrols on the roads and enhance public safety.

Currently, enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act is split between DPS and the Department of Transportation. Merging departments that perform the same tasks will streamline all motor carrier safety operations.

Today, 40 highway patrol officers enforce the motor carrier safety laws for DPS. This bill will enable those troopers to resume their regular highway patrol duties while MDOT’s certified officers lead the enforcement of motor carrier safety laws at DPS.

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